ectorate of Revenue Intelligence from the Maharashtra-Gujarat boundary had Pakistani markings and had been smuggled into the country through Rajasthan border and that international syndicates having strong Indian connections are behind the smuggling operations; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the racket indentified in the narcotics smuggling operations and what measures have been taken by Government to curb the increasing trafficking along the Rajasthan-Punjab boundary?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) Reports received by the Government indicate that on 8/9-1-1986, in pursuance of an information, officers of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Bombay Zonal Unit, searched a farm house near alasari village, on the national highay No. 8, Thane District, Maharashtra State . As a result, large quantities of hashish, heroin and mandrax tablets were found concealed under bales of hay. On examination, 4565 kgs. of hashish, 602.5 kgs. of heroin and 4 kgs. Mandrax tablets were recovered and seized under the Customs Act, 1962 and the Narcotic Drugs and Psyhotropic Substances Act, 1985. From the markings on the packages of the heroin and some slabs of hashish, it appears that the narcotics are of foeign origin. In the follow-up action, certain premises at Vapi and Bombay were searched. In this connections, 5 persons were detained for interrogation. The main persons behind this racket who was wanted in connection with COFEPOSA detention order issued against him in 1983 and was absconding has also surrendered and has been detained.

The anti-smuggling drive in the Indo-Pak border region has been intensified The trends in smuggling and seizures made in the region are kept under constant review for taking appropriate remedial action in close co-ordination with the concerned Central and State Government agencies in the region.

Food Stocks

2263. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any plan to utilise its large food stocks for implementing the national projects by converting them into productive assests; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) Government has already taken measures to use foodgrains for creating durable assets. The coverage of National Rural Employment programme and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme, under which part of wages to workers are required to be paid in the form of foodgrains, has been expanded. An additional quantity of one million tonnes of wheat over and above the normal allocation was allocated under these programmes during 1985-86. It is also proposed to utilise these programmes during 1986-87.

News item captioned 'Evasion of duty worth Rs. 5 crores racket busted'

2264. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Evasion of duty worth Rs. 5 crores racket busted" which appeared in the 'Times of India', New Delhi of the 4th March, 1986;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what preventive measures are proposed to be taken by Government in the matter?